

INTELLEAF 1

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT New Methods of Popular "Enlightenment"

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1. The methods of "enlightenment" in the process of being adopted in the DDR are designed to convince the population of the dangers of German imperialism. These methods will be linked with the "solicitude for man" (Sorge um den Menschen), a Stalinist slogan denoting the Party's concern for the personal welfare of the people. The blunt question asked of them during the plebiscite campaign: "Are you for peace or do you want the war for which the American imperialists are preparing?" was found to be ineffective in the sense that it failed to introduce a discussion affording the SED propagandist an opportunity to elicit with required thoroughness the true opinions held by the person to whom the question was asked. There will be no decrease in the number of visits paid by SED agitators among the population, these being made usually at night and frequently on Sundays. The advances to the people, however, will differ. Emphasis will be placed on the "where does the shoe pinch?" approach, and, before the agitator comes to the point, the individual visited will be questioned about his troubles and personal problems: the business man concerning the supply situation, the housewife about bus fares, etc. As early as the plebiscite campaign, meetings were held of artisans and small business men rather than of the entire population of a whole city district.
2. A very significant refinement of "enlightenment" methods is currently being tested in Klein-Machnow, seat of the Karl Marx Academy, which in the past has been the proving ground for many new methods used in strengthening SED control over the local population. Information gathered in the course of "enlightenment" talks with reactionary individuals will be entered in a central card file maintained at the Academy by an instructor named Max Lang. The system devised by Lang provides that each resident of Klein-Machnow above the age of 16 years will be carded. A sample card will list answers to the following questions: What problems were discussed? Attitude toward the USSR? Views about the Oder-Neisse line? Remaining misunderstandings (Unklarheiten)? Concern has been expressed by Heinz Abraham, deputy director of the Karl Marx Academy, lest the population learn about the existence and purpose of the card system. Other functionaries, such as Götz Scharf, a teacher at the Academy, stated that such measures are absolutely justified in view of the growing bitterness of the class struggle. In Klein-Machnow special "enlightenment" teams composed of completely trustworthy functionaries have been formed to influence those inhabitants who work or maintain a second residence in West Berlin.

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3. Criticism leveled by Walter Ulbricht in his speech on 13 June 1951 against the poor performance of the SED and the mass organizations during the plebiscite campaign was, in fact, intended to apply to the over-all performance of the Party in the DDR.

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